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ABSTRACT

Recognizing the importance of studying the community to develop a historical perspective in students, this lesson module tells the story of Fort Wayne, Indiana from the first Indian settlements to the present. It is written in narrative form and each segment of the story contains learning activities to reinforce and enhance it. Learning activities include: (1) using map skills; (2) designing Indian wampum belts; (3) building a replica of Fort Wayne from corrugated paper and cartons; and (4) making a diorama of the inside of a pioneer cabin. The story is illustrated with original drawings of the Fort Wayne area. The unit may be taught as a class activity or students may read the story and carry out the activities individually. Review questions and tests are included. (SM)

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Fort Wayne

Footsteps To The Future

Written and Illustrated by Lois Rodenbeck

Commissioned by the Lutheran Association for Elementary Education
Fort Wayne, Indiana 1986

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The Great Forest

Many years ago, before Columbus came to the Western Hemisphere, the land from the eastern coast of our country all the way to the Mississippi River was one great forest. What do you think it looked like?(rivers, creeks, swamps, marshes from floods, hills, mountains)

Many animals made this beautiful land their home. Raccoons, porcupine, turkeys, otters, mice, foxes, bear, and a small forest buffalo found plenty of food and shelter in the forests. As they passed over the same paths through the thick forest, trails formed leading to water,making the rivers very important to sustain life.

Activity: Complete the Forest Map
Out line the rivers with a blue crayon.
Color the Great Lakes blue.
Color the Forest Land green.

E
N
S
W

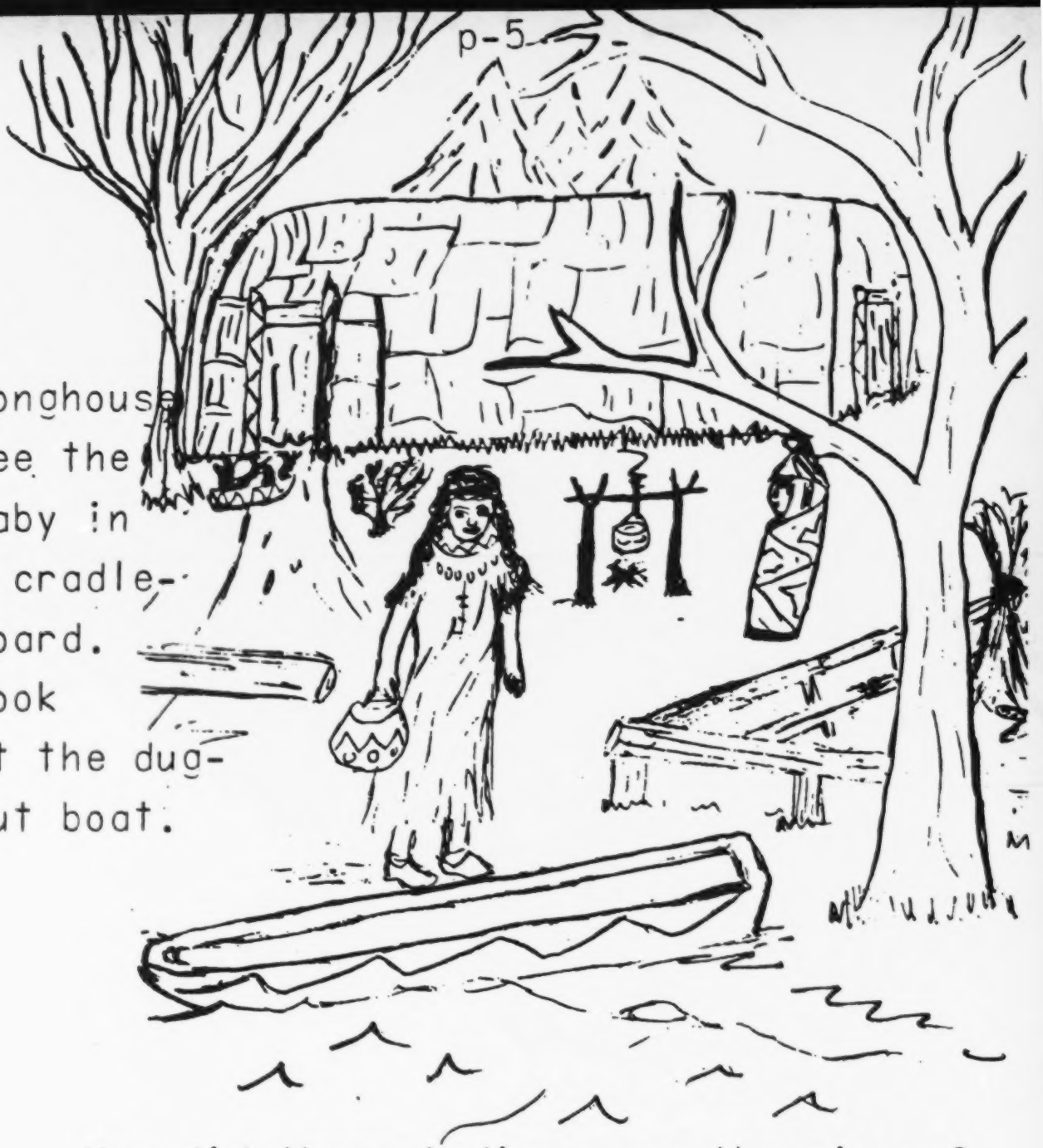
Activity: Draw a picture of the way Fort Wayne looked before the Indians came to settle here.

The Miami Nation

The Indians were the first people to settle in Indiana. A tribe of Indians is something like a very large family. The Indians of the same tribe built their homes in the same way. They ate the same kinds of foods and spoke the same language. Why would the land around Fort Wayne be a good place for an Indian village?(food, water, shelter, transportation) Perhaps where you now play, Indian children played and worked.

Indians who lived in the forest made their homes of bark and tree branches. These homes were called long houses. Hunting parties would use partable tepees made from poles set in the ground and covered with animal skins.

The Indians that settled here were part of the great Miami Nation of Woodland Indians. They had a large village called Kekionga (blackberry patch) where the three rivers met.



(A longhouse. See the baby in a cradle-board. Look at the dug-out boat.

How did these Indians use the rivers? (clay, fish, vines for ropes, travel) Since many of the tribes could not understand each other they used sign language when they wanted to talk together.

Most Indians used the land very carefully. They made their tools out of rocks and the bones of animals. They rubbed sticks sharp with sand and used flint for sharp arrowheads, spears, needles, and knives. Besides eating berries they found that they made colorful dyes. The bark of trees was also used to stain things.(walnut stain) Nuts, sunflower seeds, pumpkins, beans, corn, and squash were planted and stored under the ground in winter. A hole in the ground filled with hot stones was sometimes used as an oven.

The Miami Indians spent much of their time hunting, planting, and gathering food. They used the small forest buffalo as their main source of food and clothing. The shoulder blade became a hoe; the hide was used for clothing or blankets; horns became cups; meat was smoked for food, and intestines were used to store food.

The men did most of the hunting and fishing, while the women and children gathered wild food and bird eggs. They also planted,made clothing, cleaned animals, cooked, carried water, and found time to play games. The children were taught to steal as a sign of bravery. Little ones were carried in cradle boards which sometimes deformed their legs. They had to learn to swim and to protect themselves from wild animals. Many relatives lived together in each long house.

They did not know anything about Jesus as their Savior but worshiped the sun as their god. Their priests were doctors using herbs and tatoo dyes to heal the sick.

Activity: Write a story about your pretend visit to the Kekionga Village.

The French Arrive

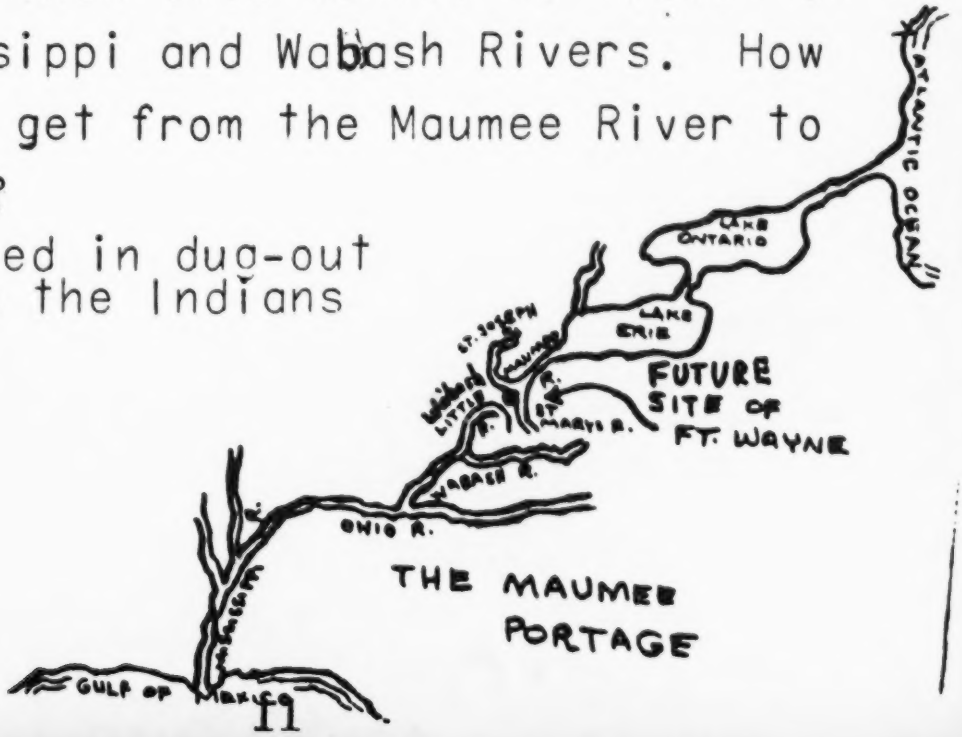
Since rivers and lakes were the best way to travel through this forest land, the French Voyagers eventually came to visit the Miami Indians in the year 1686. What do you think they wanted from the Indians? The Indians were expert fur trappers and did most of their trapping in the winter when the fur was thicker. What would the French do with the fur they got from the Indians? Fur trim on clothing was very popular in Europe. Mink, martin, muskrat, fox, otter, raccoon, beaver and other fur were a valuable source of income for the French. See if you could trace a river-lake route to the Atlantic Ocean from Fort Wayne.

The Indians were very happy to trade their furs because they had so many. They wanted the shiny ornaments, mirrors, pins, cooking pots, metal guns, traps and axes that the French had.

Since the traders needed a building to store their wares, it would certainly help if they could set up a building to use as a trading store. How would the trader's store differ from the Indian long houses? The French also brought priests with them. Why? (Christianize Indians)

As more and more traders came they had to find more places to stay overnight. What do you think they used as hotels or restaurants? The French built the first forts.

The French also wanted to travel on the Mississippi and Wabash Rivers. How could they get from the Maumee River to the Wabash?
They traveled in dug-out canoes like the Indians did.



The boats had to be carried from the St. Marys to the Little Wabash River. One Indian became very rich by charging the French a big fee for crossing the land to the Little Wabash River. His name was Jean Baptiste Richardville (Pe-che-wa). His picture is in the Fort Wayne Historical Museum and his brick home is right outside Huntington on Highway 24. Land between rivers or lakes that is used for carrying boats or provisions is called a **portage**.

Activity: Plan a trade fair. Bring in items you might think others would want.

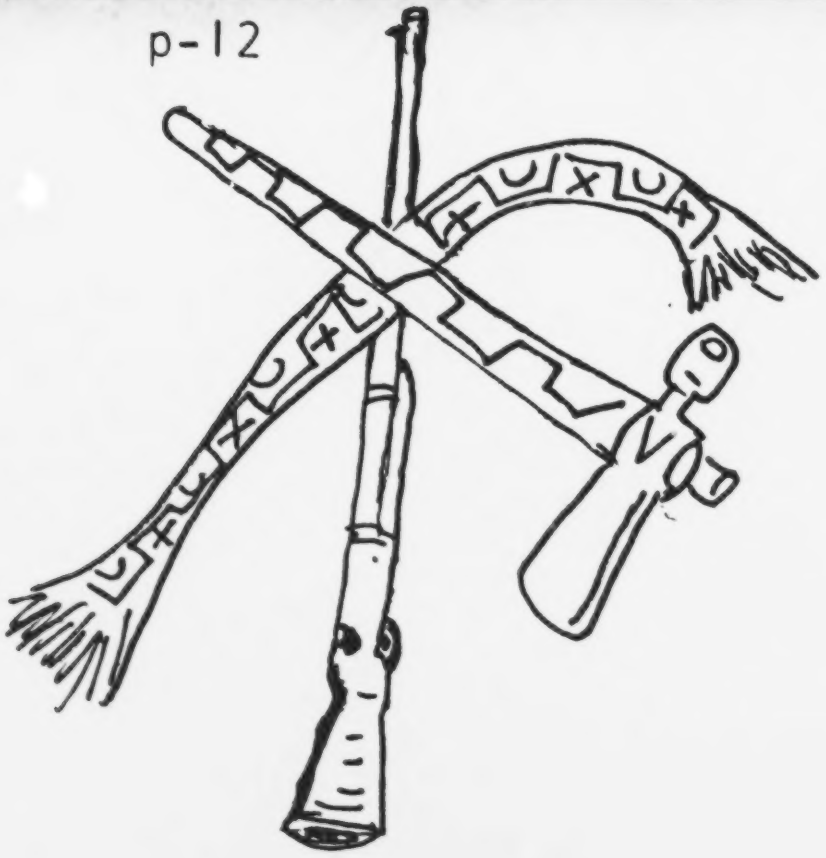
p-11

Trade Fair and

Review Test

1. What did the land around Fort Wayne look like before the Indians came?
2. Why was this a good place for animals to live?
3. Why did Indians settle at the Three Rivers?
4. What could they use for food and shelter?
5. The group of Woodland Indians that settled here was called?
6. Their village was called?
7. What things did they have to do to live in their village?
8. Why did the Voyagers want fur from the Indians?
9. What did the Indians want in trade?
10. Why did priests come with the French?
11. What is a portage?
12. How did Jean Baptiste Richardville become wealthy?

p-12



The French and English Conflicts

When the English found out about the profitable fur trade, they gave the Indians guns and asked them to help capture the French fort, which they did in 1747. The English then controlled the fur trade and promptly raised the prices. Needless to say, this did not make the Indians very happy. They also began to worry about their animals disappearing. Farmers were

cutting down the forest land for their fields. This was very rich fertile soil.

More and more farmers came. Soon the forests and animals disappeared. How would this effect the Indians? What do you think they did?

A clever, powerful chief called Pontiac got the tribes together and passed a war belt of wampum (beads). This was a signal to fight the British and burn the fort. The British officer at the fort, although he heard rumors, trusted the Indians and they massacred the whole garrison. A new young chief, Little Turtle, became a hero in the war and was chosen war chief. The Indians now controlled the land for 30 years until General Josiah Harmar was defeated at Harmar's Ford in 1790.

Activity: Design an Indian wampum belt. Use squared paper, cut one piece into halves. Glue on longer brown construction paper and fray edges.

p-14

Washington Sends Anthony Wayne

After the Revolutionary War President George Washington had to face this Indian problem. The pioneers wanted new farm lands. The Indians didn't like the pioneers because they took their hunting grounds and plowed up Indian burial grounds. So the Indians raided and robbed the pioneers. The pioneers had no fort to go to for safety so they asked Washington's government for help.

When Harmar was defeated by Little Turtle, Washington decided to send a hugh army led by General Arthur St. Clair. This army of 2,000 men was defeated by a gathering of Miami, Shawnee, Delaware, Ottawa, Wyandot, Potawatomi, and Kickapoo Indians who surprised St. Clair and his men. When President Washington learned of the defeat he was furious. "I warned them to beware of a surprise attack."

p-15

Was Chief Little Turtle going to hold off the whole United States Army forever? St. Clair's army was the largest army to suffer complete defeat at the hands of the Indians in U.S. history. Washington knew that the Miamis were the leading tribe and if he could beat them the other tribes would leave. Kekionga had to be captured to prevent Indian travel and help the safety of the settlers.

Now Washington was in trouble. . his prestige was questioned . . . so he sent a general, Anthony Wayne, who became famous during the Revolutary War.

Little Turtle was worried about this new army. "It is led by a chief who never sleeps." Little Turtle and the other chiefs met in a council house to decide what they must do. He tried to tell the others that they could no longer keep the Americans out of the land. He wisely advised the Indians to change their ways. Blue Jacket, another war chief, decided to fight Anthony Wayne at a place called Fallen Timbers (near Toledo, Ohio) where a tornado had leveled much of the forest.

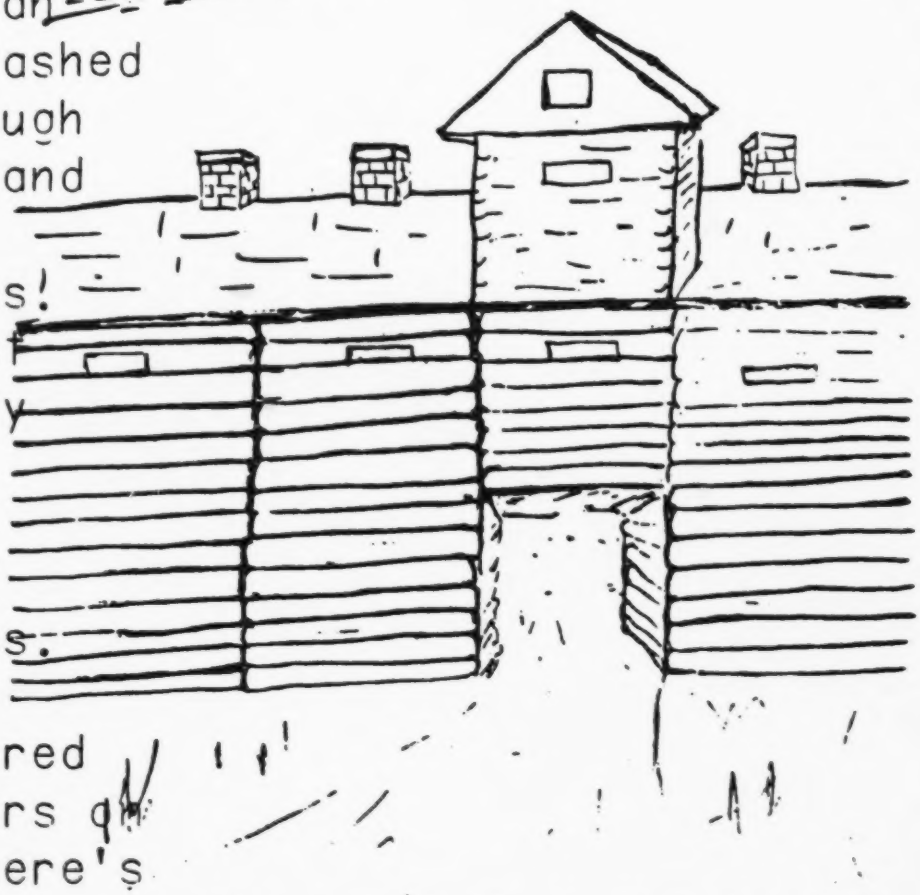
Anthony Wayne was wise to the Indian ways, for he sent scouts to spy on them. He also had help from a young man who was captured as a 11 yr. old child by the Indians. This man, named William Wells joined Anthony Wayne. He knew the territory and drilled the troops for Indian fighting. What did Wayne have to do to move a large army through the forest?

He had to build roads and small forts, 20 miles apart so the men could find safety when attacked.

Activity: In groups of 3 or 4 construct a fort out of ½ gallon milk cartons, covered with brown corrugated paper. Small school cartons fastened together make excellent pioneer cabins. Large cartons fastened together make the quarters for the **soldiers**. (Allow 2 days.)

Well
top of carton
small school milk carton
3 cartons
outside back or side of fort
fasten with masking tape and cover with paper.
corrugated paper walls in between cartons
1 carton
2 small cartons
fasten with tape and cover. Use black paper for chimney. Draw stones on the chimneys with white chalk.

p-18



The American soldiers dashed madly through the brush and surprised the Indians! Blue Jacket frantically tried to halt the retreat of his Indians. General Wayne ordered his soldiers on saying, "There's only one way to make sure they are beaten for good. Destroy Kekionga." Two months later he stood inside the new fort that was named in his honor. Little Turtle sent a message to General Wayne asking for peace. On July 20, General Wayne made peace with the Indians, giving them one-third of the upper Ohio territory. Washington later gave Little Turtle a medal and a splendid sword which he prized highly.

p-18

Review of the English, French, and American Conflicts

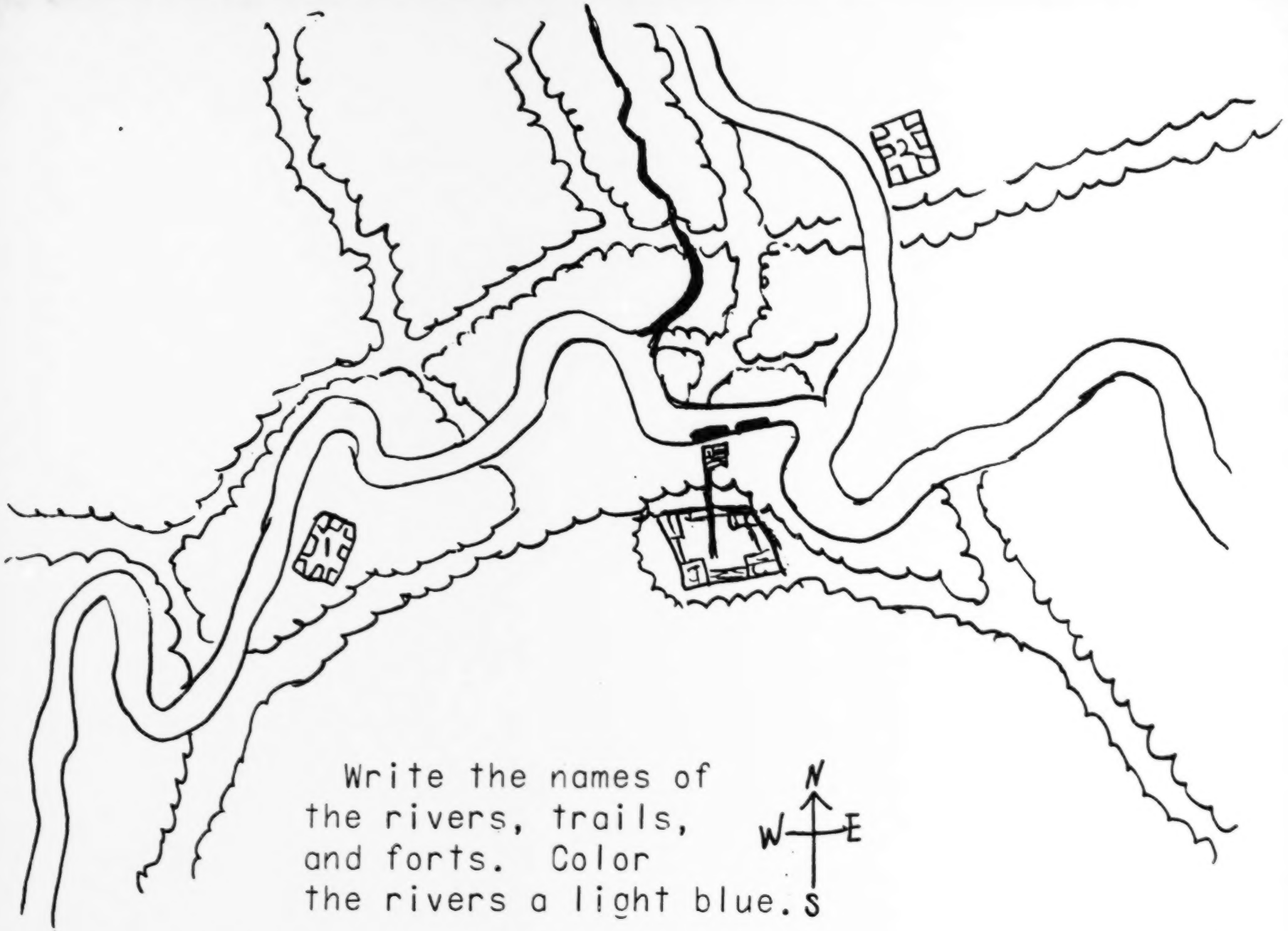
Underline the correct answers in the( ). In some questions both answers may be correct.

1. The English also wanted the rich fur trade so they gave the Indians (fur) (guns) to help them defeat the French.
2. The Indians began to worry about forest land disappearing because(farmers) (traders) found the soil so rich.
3. A clever, powerful chief called (Deer) (Pontiac) got the tribes together for a war council.
4. After the Indians captured the British fort, a new chief called (Little Turtle) (Running Deer) was chosen to lead the people.
5. The pioneers took Indian (burial) (hunting) grounds for their new farms.
6. The pioneers had no fort to go to for safety so they asked (the English) (Washington's) government for help.
7. Generals (Josiah Harmar) (Arthur St. Clare) were defeated by the Indians.
8. (Little Turtle) (Running Deer) tried to tell the Indians not to fight.

9. Blue Jacket decided to fight Anthony Wayne at (Stone River) (Fallen Timbers) in Ohio.
10. Anthony Wayne was helped by a man named (William Wells) (John Isaac) who lived among the Indians as a child.
11. Anthony Wayne was given the Indian name "The Man Who Never Sleeps" because (he was always tired) (his scouts hunted the Indians)
12. (General Anthony Wayne) (Chief Blue Jacket) was defeated at Fallen Timbers on October 28, 1794.

An interesting fact:

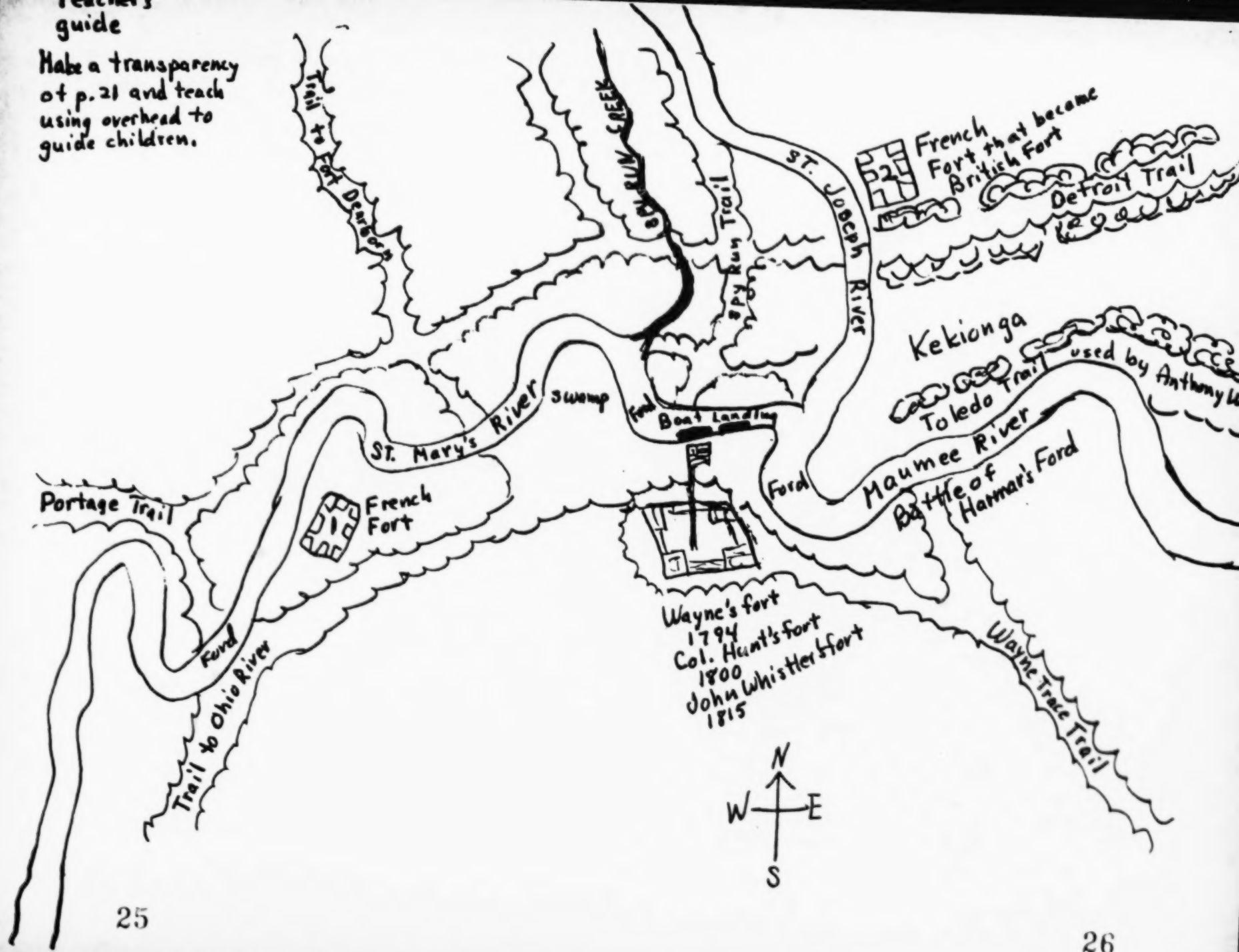
One of the last chiefs of the Miami Indians, William F. Hale, died at the age of 91 on March 26, 1983 in Muncie, Indiana. His Indian name was Mon-gon-zah. He was born in the Indian barracks at Marion and became head of one of the three remaining of the original 15 bands of the Miami nation. His father was a white man and his mother, Soc-oc-co-quah, a Miami Indian. He had four daughters. He served in the Indian National Guard and in World War I.



Write the names of the rivers, trails, and forts. Color the rivers a light blue.

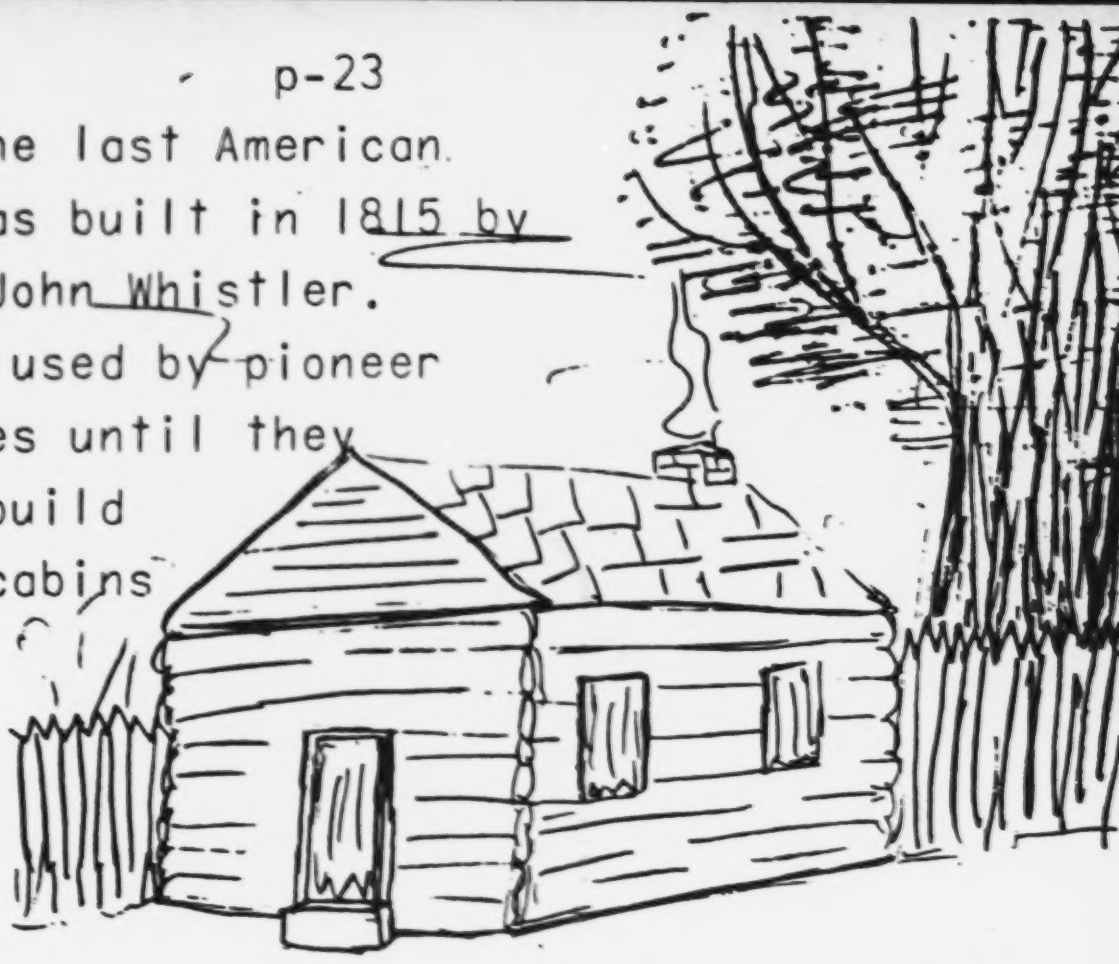
teacher's guide

Make a transparency of p. 21 and teach using overhead to guide children.



p-23

The last American fort was built in 1815 by Major John Whistler. It was used by pioneer families until they could build their cabins and clear the land.



Pioneers

Now that the Indian threat was over a land office opened in Fort Wayne. Land could be purchased for $1.25 an acre. Why did people want to come to this area? They hoped to better themselves. They knew the land was good and some came just because they enjoyed adventure. They usually bought 40 acres; 20 were used for crops, 10 left as woodland, and 10 used

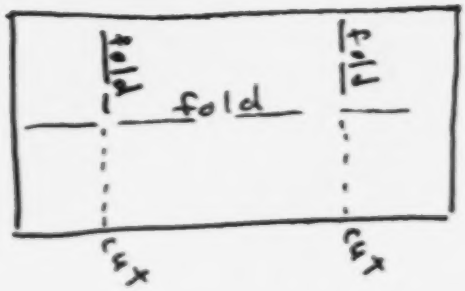
for grazing. Was it right to take the land away from the Indians?

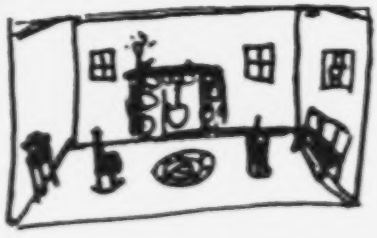
Their houses were cabins about the size of a garage, with a fireplace, loft for sleeping, and small bed stored under the high main bed. The biggest problem now was to clear the forests of trees so that crops could be planted. They raised corn, vegetables, and flax which was used to make linen. Sheep provided them with wool and meat for the long winter months.

They learned much from the Indians, preserving their food by smoking the meat and digging food cellars. They hunted, fished, and gathered wild foods just like the Indians did. The boys enjoyed trapping, hunting, carrying water, chopping wood, and plowing. The girls made rugs, clothes, soap, strawmattresses for beds and cooked the food. They worked hard all day for 9 months and were happy to get out of the chores to go to school for 3 months.

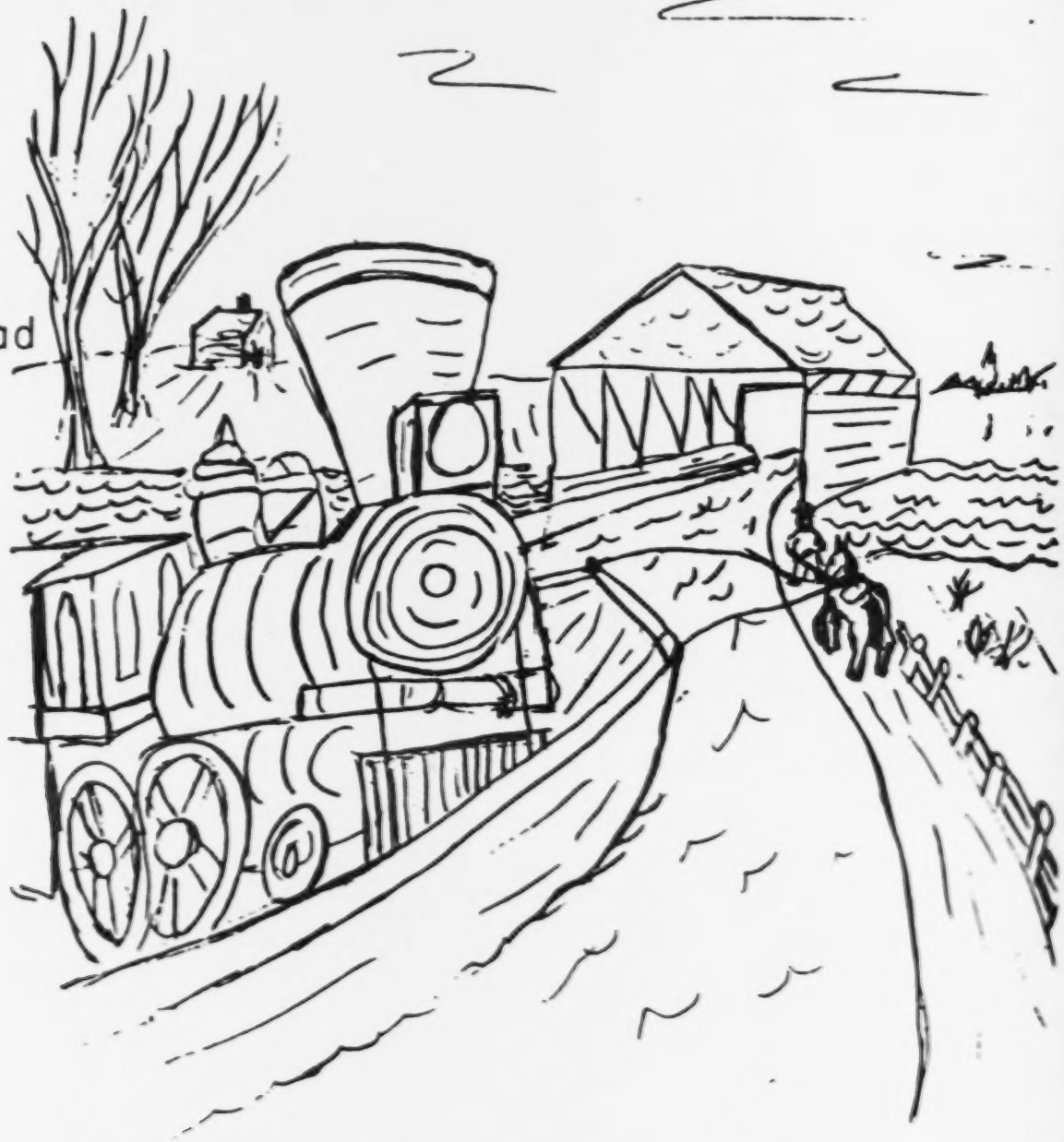
They had one big problem. Everyone had the same crops to sell. If you have 100 pumpkins to sell and your neighbor has 200 pumpkins, would he buy your pumpkins? How do you think they could solve this problem?

Activity: Make a diorama of the inside of a pioneer cabin. Cut a large sheet of brown construction paper into a box shape. Fill with pioneer furnishings. (2 sessions)





Canal and railroad days



Where to go with things to sell? This was the big question. However, to the north-east, a large city was in need of farm crops. If they could get to Toledo, they could also get to Detroit and eastern cities. Why was river travel

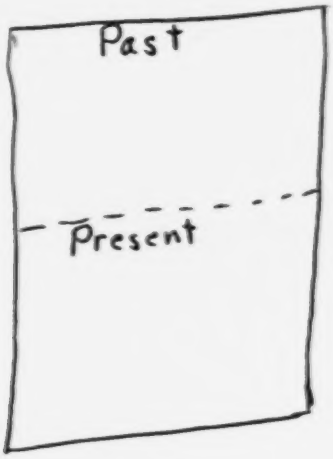
dangerous? There were rapids, trees that would punch holes in boats, sharp rocks, and beaver dams. Why didn't they use horses? Boats could carry more. What happened if the river current was not flowing the way you wanted to go? The Maumee flows toward Toledo where it enters the Great Lakes. The St Mary comes from Ohio; the St. Joe comes from Michigan. Fort Wayne is a summit or high point so both rivers turn and flow back east. They decided to build a canal, which was to become part of the longest man-made waterway in the world... the Wabash-Erie Canal. Water in a canal is controlled by locks. If you take old Highway 24 to Toledo you can see the old locks in the Canal Park System. You might want to stop at an old mill near Toledo to see a model of this canal. Canal boats were pulled by **horses** or mules, with extra animals on the boats. It would take two days to get to Toledo, where it takes two hours by car today. How did this canal change the

city of Fort Wayne? The immigrants from the East came in by canal. By the year 1840 the state of Indiana had 685,000 settlers from many countries of the world.

The canal was used for 10 yrs. In order to allow the canal to cross the St. Marys River, an aqueduct was built. An aqueduct is a special water bridge over the river. (There is a model at the Historical Society Museum) What do you think happened to the canal in the winter? What happen in a dry summer? People had to come up with another idea. They tried making plank roads. Plank roads are made by placing logs side by side. Highway 3 was a plank road for 50 miles north. (Lima Road) Soon a locomotive arrived by flat-boat on the canal. In 1856 a track was built to Columbia City. Later the city became a great railway center with a locomotive factory. Many other factories were

started in Fort Wayne: S.F. Bowser Co. maker of gasoline pumps; Jenny Electric Co.; Wayne Knitting Mills; Bass Foundry, makers of steel products. The city offered many opportunities for trade and growth.

Activity: Divide a paper into half and draw a picture of transportation "then and now".



Review of the Pioneer, Canal, and Railroad Days

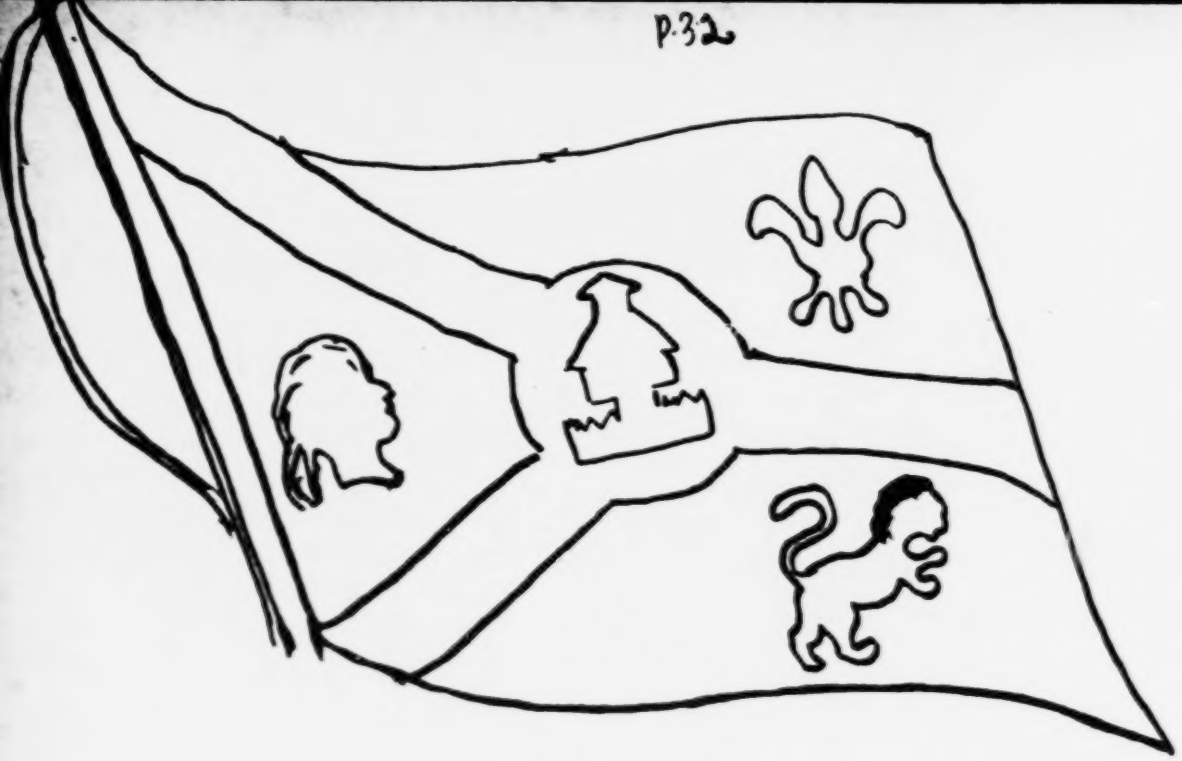
1. Why did a land office open in Ft.Wayne?
2. Why did people come to this area?
3. What did their houses look like?
4. Why was it hard to clear the land?
5. What jobs did the children have?
6. Why did they enjoy going to school for 3 months?
7. What one big problem did they have with their crops?
8. How did they solve that problem?
9. Where could they travel on this canal?
10. Why was river travel dangerous?
11. How did this canal change the city of Fort Wayne?
12. Why did they have to think of another way of transporting their goods?
13. What is an aqueduct?
14. How were the first roads different from the roads we now travel on?
15. How did the railroads change the city?

Our City Today

Fort Wayne became a city on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1840. It has become a leading industrial, commercial, and cultural center in the Mid-west. It is also known as "The City of Churches" or "The Summit City".

In 1916, the centennial of Indiana's admission to the United States, the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette sponsored a contest for the best design for a city flag. The artist designed a flag on a dark blue background. The three white stripes represent the three rivers. The blockhouse, Indian, lion, and fleur-de-lis represent the four nations which occupied the area. They are colored red to represent the battles fought on the land.

The city also has an official seal. The words and details are outlined in gold. The circle with the words "City of Fort Wayne Indiana has a dark blue background. The



CITY OF FORT WAYNE
KE-KI ON-GA
INDIANA

design was adopted in the year 1972. The scale represents justice; the sword with snakes represents Mercury's wand (caduceus); (Mercury-Roman symbol of commerce) the sword represents battles; the words "Kekionga" remind us of our Indian heritage; the swords touching each other represent the balance between conflict and agreement.

Fort Wayne has grown into a beautiful city with many changes still taking place. The city offices are in an impressive white building downtown. As you look out over the city from the top floors of downtown buildings you can readily see why our city is called the "City of Churches". I'm proud to live in Fort Wayne.

Who's Who at City Hall

Many city workers have offices in a building called "City Hall." No two towns or cities are alike, but this page will give you an idea of some duties and departments.

City Council

Mayor

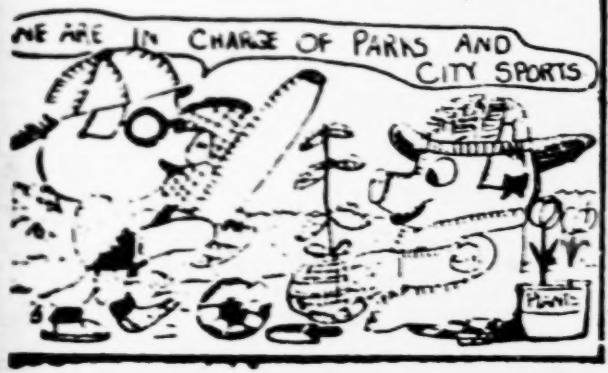
Traffic Enginee

Police Department

Public Works Department

Public Utilities

Parks and Recreation Dept.



Planning Department

Fire Department

Test on Fort Wayne

Use these words for your answers: dugout, Miami, French, Kekionga, Maumee, traders, portage, fur, Little Turtle, General Anthony Wayne, Fallen Timbers, canal, aquaduct, lion, Indian, fleur-de-lis, blockhouse, Pontiac, rivers

1. Fort Wayne is a city that has its own flag with a _____

_____

2. The first people to visit the three rivers were the _____ who wanted _____ from the Indians.
3. The Indian village they found was called _____.
4. Living in this village was a friendly group of Indians called _____.
5. Soon many traders came on the _____ River in _____ canoes.
6. The _____ built the first fort.
7. When traders wanted to get from the St.Mary River to the Wabash they had to _____ their goods.
8. _____ was a great Indian chief who saw that his people would have to change.
9. President Washington sent _____ to put down the Indian uprisings.
10. The Indians led by Chief _____ were defeated at _____
11. Many people came to Fort Wayne on the _____ in boats.
12. Since travel on the rivers was not safe, they built a _____.
13. The canal had a water bridge called an _____
14. The thing I like best about Ft. Wayne is:

(use the back side to answer)

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Fort Wayne: Carved from Wilderness Fort Wayne News-Sentinel June 26,1976

Fort Wayne Celebrates its 125th Anniversary letter sent to teachers

Mon-gon-zah, 91, Miami chieftain Journal-Gazette March 16,1983

Notes taken from visit to the Historical Museum 302 East Berry Street

Suggested Tours

St. Paul Lutheran Church 1126 South Barr Street 423-2496

Fort Wayne Historical Museum 302 East Berry Street 426 2888 excellent

Fort Wayne City-County Building One Main Street 427-1100

Old School House Aboite Center and Homestead contact Mrs. Hū'gē 432-1882